

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan (IP) Fact Sheet Upper Rapidan Watershed in the Counties of Madison, Greene, Orange and Albemarle

Why were TMDLs prepared for the Upper Rapidan Watershed? The goal of the Clean Water Act is that all streams should be suitable for recreational uses, including swimming and fishing. **Fecal coliform and Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) bacteria** are used to indicate the presence of pathogens in streams and to determine support of the recreational use standard. Portions of **Rippin Run** (Greene Co.), **Blue Run** (Albemarle and Orange Counties), **Marsh Run** (Madison, Greene and Orange Counties), **Beautiful Run** (Madison Co.), **Poplar Run** (Orange Co.), **2 unnamed tributaries of the Rapidan River** (Madison (1) and Orange (1) Counties), and **2 sections of the Rapidan River** (Madison and Orange Counties), which are all part of the **Upper Rapidan Watershed**, do not support the recreational use standard.

What portion of the Upper Rapidan River Watershed is addressed in the TMDL study? The impaired segments include: **12.72 miles of Blue Run** which begins at its headwaters and continues downstream to its confluence with the Rapidan River, **5.64 miles of Marsh Run** which begins at its headwaters and continues downstream to the Rapidan River, **2.67 miles Unnamed Tributary** from its headwaters to the Rapidan River, and a **7.63 mile section of the Rapidan River** which begins at Poplar Run and flows to the Robinson River. The TMDL study can be viewed at:
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/rapprr/rapidanec.pdf>.
It is noted that since the TMDL was completed, Virginia has refined its GIS data using high-resolution imagery. The length of each impairment noted above has been updated using the refined GIS data, and is slightly different than the impairment length given in the TMDL.

Since the April 2007 TMDL study, additional streams in the Upper Rapidan watershed have been added to the Impaired Waters List: .6 miles in length of Rippin Run which begins at White Run and continues downstream to the Rapidan River, **3.68 miles in length of Beautiful Run** which begins with UT of rivermile 3.4 to the Rapidan River, **4.1 miles of Poplar Run** which begins at its headwaters to the Rapidan River, **1.61 miles in length of Garth Run** which begins at Route 665 crossing and continues downstream to the Rapidan River, **3.11 miles Unnamed Tributary** from its headwaters to the Rapidan River, and a **4.33 mile section of the Rapidan River** which begins at Marsh Run and flows to Blue Run **were determined to be impaired for bacteria. These impairments and their watersheds are also included in this plan.** (please see attached map)

What happens now that the TMDLs have been completed? EPA approved the Bacteria TMDLs for the Upper Rapidan River Basin for Madison, Orange, Greene and Albemarle Counties, on December 5, 2007. After approval, a **TMDL implementation plan (IP)** is developed to identify the corrective actions needed to meet the TMDL water quality goal. IPs must include a schedule of actions and their respective costs and benefits,

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measurable goals, a monitoring plan, and a target date for achieving compliance with water quality standards. Development of the IP begins in January 2015 and is anticipated to be complete in approximately 8-9 months.

How will the TMDL be implemented? Nonpoint source TMDLs are implemented through **best management practices** (BMPs) that will reduce the amount of the pollutant loadings identified in the TMDL. Implementation will occur in stages and local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations will assist landowners and other citizens in facilitating the actual implementation of BMPs. Progress will be monitored during the implementation phase through the tracking of practices installed and water quality monitoring.

How will the public participate in TMDL IP development? Two formal public meetings are planned as part of the TMDL IP development process. The **first public meeting** will be held January 28 and 29, 2015 (same meeting in 2 different locations to cover the large area) to inform the public about the impairments, implementation plan development process, and to obtain public comment. The second meeting will be held in mid-summer 2015 to present a draft IP.

What are the expected benefits of the TMDL and Implementation efforts? Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial uses of these streams so they support various recreational opportunities. Implementation of the bacteria TMDL will work towards restoring the beneficial use of these rivers, making it possible for individuals to swim and wade without the risk of waterborne illness. In addition to improved recreational opportunities, the installation of certain BMPs may result in improved riparian habitat and property values.

What funding will be available to help support the stakeholders' efforts in implementing the TMDLs? The Water Quality Improvement Fund may be a possible funding source for best management practices that address bacteria. Other sources of funding, such as the Virginia Revolving Loan Funds and various federal grant programs that can be utilized to fund corrective actions, will be identified in the TMDL IP. The Virginia TMDL IP Guidance Manual includes additional information on funding sources. Information on DEQ programs, including information on TMDLs, may be found at www.deq.virginia.gov.

Whom may I contact to participate in, comment on or learn more about the Upper Rapidan River Watershed TMDL IP development?

May Louise Sligh, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Northern Regional Office, may.sligh@deq.virginia.gov, (804) 450-3802 or Jenny Biche and Michelle Edwards, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, jkbiche@rrregion.org / medwards@rrregion.org, (540) 829-7450.

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The first set of **public meetings** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 6 pm at the Town of Orange Public Works Community Room, 235 Warren St., Orange, Virginia** and **Thursday, January 29, 2015, 6 pm, at 6pm at the PVCC Eugene Giuseppe Center/Greene County Library, 2nd floor, 222 S. Main St., Stanardsville, Virginia.** Agricultural and residential stakeholder working groups will also meet during those times. These meetings will help to ensure that the information used in the IP is accurate and that the final IP reflects the concerns/issues of the watershed stakeholders. The agenda and presentations will be the same for both meetings. The 30-day public comment period on the information presented at these meetings will end on **February 27, 2015**. All public meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, through direct mailings, and in the Virginia Register.